REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-38 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claims 1, 15, 26, and 36-38 have been amended. Claims 32-35 have been canceled. Claims 39-41 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-31 and 36-41 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 15, 17-21, 26, 29, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douceur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,401,126) in view of Goldszmidt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,680). Claims 2-3, 16, 27-28, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Douceur and Goldszmidt, and further in view of Hugenberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,545). Claim 4 is rejected as being obvious over Douceur, Goldszmidt, and Hugenberg, and further in view of Hoguta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,725,303). Claim 9 is rejected as being obvious over Douceur and Goldszmidt, and further in view of Koperda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,806). Claims 11-12, 14, 22-25, and 30-31 are rejected as being obvious over Douceur, Goldszmidt, and Hugenberg, and further in view of Hoarty (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,661). Claim 13 is rejected as being obvious over Douceur, Goldszmidt, Hugenberg, and Hoarty, and further in view of Plaza Fernandez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,992). Claim 36 is rejected as being obvious over Douceur and Goldszmidt, and further in view of Yu (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,775). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that "a first computer program segment resident at a first one of the plurality of servers . . . receives a first request from an end user terminal, processes the first request, and broadcasts data regarding the first request to a second one of the plurality of servers," and that "a second program segment resident in the second one of the plurality of servers . . . stores the data regarding the first request broadcast from the first one of the plurality of servers in a local memory, receives <u>a second request</u> from the end user terminal,

retrieves from the local memory the <u>data regarding the first request for processing the second request</u>, and processes the second request based on the retrieved data." (Emphasis added).

Douceur fails to teach or suggest all of these limitations.

Douceur schedules the transmission of different data streams according to a disk schedule. The disk schedule is needed because the data files in Douceur are striped across all the storage disks and all the data servers. (Col. 2, lines 17-22). When a client requests a data stream, all data servers share in the distribution of that data stream, each supplying a portion of the data stream in turn. The disk schedule specifies, for each server, when to read each block of data from the corresponding disk, and when to transmit this data over the network. (Col. 4, lines 20-28).

Douceur discloses, in column 8, lines 19-38, a distributed disk scheduling that distributes portions of the disk schedule to the data servers. Specifically, Douceur discloses that "[p]eriodically, each server sends a message to the next server in sequence, passing on some of its portions of the schedule to the next server that will need that information." (Col. 8, lines 19-21). This schedule propagation takes the form of messages called "viewer state records" (Col. 8, lines 22-23). Douceur's distributed disk scheduling mechanism and "viewer state records." is described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 5,867,657 (Bolosky, et al.), which is incorporated into the teachings of Douceur. (See, Douceur, Col. 8, lines 30-39). As described in Bolosky, the next server that receives a viewer state record is the data server that is to retrieve the next data block for a particular data file. (See Bolosky , Col. 5, lines 37-40). The receiving data server uses the received data to continue the retrieval of a particular data file. Nothing in Douceur or Bolosky teaches or suggests that the receiving data server "receives <u>a second request</u> from the end user terminal, retrieves from the local memory the data regarding the <u>first request for processing the second request</u>, and processes the second request based on the retrieved data." (Emphasis added). Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 15 and 26 include limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 1 which make claim 1 allowable. Accordingly, claims 15 and 26 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-14, 16-26, 27-31, and 36-38 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.
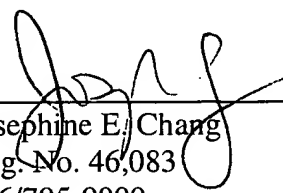
Claims 39-41 are new in this application. Claims 39-41 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically, claim 39 adds the limitation that "the data regarding the first request is registration data for a user of the particular end user terminal." Douceur fails to teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, claim 39 is in condition for allowance because of this additional limitation.

Claim 40 adds the limitation that "the data regarding the first request is transaction data transmitted by a user of the particular end user terminal." Douceur fails to teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, claim 39 is in condition for allowance because of this additional limitation.

Claim 41 adds the limitation that "the first of the plural servers is programmed to concurrently broadcast the data regarding the first request to a plurality of the plural servers." (Emphasis added). Nothing in Douceur teaches or suggests this limitation. Accordingly, claim 41 is in condition for allowance for this additional limitation.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-31 and 36-41 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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